

**MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**
Thursday , February 15, 2018 • 4:10 p.m. • 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Bradley G. Last, House Chair
Rep. Mike Schultz, House Vice Chair
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell, Senate Vice Chair
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Sen. J. Stuart Adams
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Karen Mayne
President Wayne L. Niederhauser
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. Francis D. Gibson

Rep. Sandra Hollins
Speaker Gregory H. Hughes
Rep. Brian S. King
Rep. John Knotwell
Rep. Angela Romero
Rep. Brad R. Wilson

Members Absent:

Sen. Luz Escamilla

Staff Present:

Mr. Jonathan Ball, Director
Mr. Steven M. Allred, Deputy Director
Ms. Greta G. Rodebush, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1 . Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

Chair Bradley G. Last called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m. He introduced Sen. Evan J. Vickers as the Senate Vice Chair pro tem and Sen. Keven T. Van Tassell as the Senate Majority Leader pro tem.

There were no minutes to approve.

2 . Requests for Appropriation

a. National Ability Center

Sen. Van Tassell welcomed the presenters from the National Ability Center (NAC).

Ms. Gail Barille, Chief Executive Officer, NAC, presented the request for appropriation and responded to questions.

Mr. Dick Gallagher, Member, Board of Directors, NAC, expressed the board's commitment to seeing the NAC project to its completion.

Mr. Brad Peterson, President, Board of Directors, NAC, briefly discussed Utah's outdoor recreational assets and the expansion of the NAC.

Mr. Tim Bates, Army Veteran, and Staff Member, NAC, related his experiences as a NAC program participant.

Sen. Van Tassell summarized the NAC's request for capital expansion.

b. School Children Capitol Field Trip Visits

Rep. Steve Eliason introduced the request for appropriation for School Children Capitol Field Trip Visits.

Dr. Sydney Dixon, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, spoke in support of the program and moving program funding from the State Board of Education to the Capitol Preservation Board (CPB).

Ms. Allyson Gamble, Executive Director, CPB, added her support and talked about the benefits of using CPB resources for the entire project.

Sen. Van Tassell commented on the disbursement of funds and ensuring that rural school districts can take advantage of the program.

c. Public Access to Milk-Money Art

Rep. Brad R. Wilson introduced the request for appropriation for Public Access to Milk-Money Art and responded to questions.

Rep. R. Curt Webb explained the history of the Milk-Money Collections program that included a slide presentation and responded to questions.

Rep. Wilson discussed the value of acquiring art collections from school districts and adding them to the State art collection.

Sen. Gene Davis commented on the proper storage and maintenance of Utah's artwork.

Rep. Joel K. Briscoe added his support for the funding request.

d. Staff Retention

Rep. Mike Schultz presented the request for appropriation for Staff Retention.

e. Utah National Guard

Sen. Peter C. Knudson introduced the request for appropriation for the Utah National Guard (UNG).

Mr. Michael Norton, Finance Director, UNG, highlighted a number of UNG funding requests.

Colonel Tyler B. Smith, UNG, commented on the importance of maintaining UNG operational forces.

3 . Subcommittee Budget Reports

a. Executive Offices and Criminal Justice (Tab 3)

Sen. Daniel Thatcher, Co-Chair, and Rep. Eric K. Hutchings, Co-Chair, presented the subcommittee report and responded to questions. Mr. Gary Syphus, Fiscal Analyst, LFA, and Mr. Alex Wilson, Fiscal Analyst, LFA, provided assistance.

[3b-Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee Report \(2018 GS\)](#)

b. Public Education (Tab 7)

Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard, Co-Chair, and Rep. Daniel McCay, Co-Chair, presented the subcommittee report. Rep. Robert M. Spendlove, House Vice Chair, had asked to be excused. Mr. Ben Leishman, Fiscal Analyst, LFA, and Mr. Sean Faherty, Fiscal Analyst, LFA, provided assistance.

[3a-Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee Report \(2018 GS\)](#)

c. Higher Education (Tab 4)

Sen. Evan J. Vickers, Co-Chair, Rep. Keith Grover, Co-Chair, and Rep. Derrin R. Owens, House Vice Chair, presented the subcommittee report and responded to questions. Mr. Spencer Pratt, Fiscal Manager, LFA, and Mr. Sean Faherty, Fiscal Analyst, LFA, provided assistance.

[3c-Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee Report \(2018 GS\)](#)

d. Infrastructure and General Government (Tab 5)

Sen. Wayne Harper, Co-Chair, Rep. Gage Froerer, Co-Chair, and Rep. Walt Brooks, House Vice Chair, presented the subcommittee report and responded to questions and comments. Mr. Brian Wikle, Fiscal Analyst, LFA, and Mr. Ryan Mortenson, Fiscal Analyst, LFA, provided assistance.

[3d-Infrastructure and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee Report \(2018 GS\)](#)

A handout of subcommittee prioritizations was distributed to committee members.

e. Executive Appropriations Committee Agencies (Tab 10)

Mr. Steven Allred, Deputy Director, LFA, explained the ongoing and one-time requests behind Tab 10 and invited the agency heads to present their building blocks requests.

[3e-Executive Appropriations Committee Report \(2018 GS\)](#)

Ms. Allyson Gamble, Executive Director, Capitol Preservation Board, presented the request for an Event Support Specialist.

Mr. Mike Norton, UNG, presented two building block requests that included: National Guard Tuition Assistance and Operations and Maintenance for National Guard Special Forces Readiness Center.

Mr. Gary Harter, Executive Director, Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, presented a request for the Veteran First-Time Home Buyer Project and distributed a handout.

Mr. John Cannon, Director, Legislative Research and General Counsel (LRGC) presented a request to restore funding associated with the repeal of the Constitutional Revision Commission. He also discussed requests for LRGC Computer Equipment and LRGC Redistricting Equipment and Software.

MOTION: Sen. Stevenson moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 15 - 0 - 5 .

Yeas-15

Sen. J. Adams
Rep. J. Briscoe
Sen. G. Davis
Rep. F. Gibson
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. J. Knotwell
Sen. P. Knudson
Rep. B. Last
Sen. W. Niederhauser
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. M. Schultz
Sen. J. Stevenson
Sen. K. Van Tassell
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. B. Wilson

Nays-0

Absent-5

Sen. L. Escamilla
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. G. Hughes
Rep. B. King
Sen. K. Mayne

Chair Last adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.